United Nations A/61/572

General Assembly

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Sixty-first session
Agenda item 14
Question of Palestine

Letter dated 9 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour, in my capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, to enclose herewith the statement of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (see annex).

I hereby request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 14.

(*Signed*) Rodrigo **Malmierca Díaz**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement

06-61585 (E) 161106

Annex to the letter dated 9 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

The Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement expresses once again its grave concern at the continued deterioration of the situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory during the recent period, particularly as a result of the excessive, indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force by Israel, the occupying Power, which has caused extensive loss of civilian Palestinian life and injuries, including among children and women.

The Movement condemns in particular the military assaults being carried out by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Gaza Strip, which have caused loss of life and extensive destruction of Palestinian property and vital infrastructure.

The Movement reaffirms the continued validity of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 446 (1979), 1322 (2000), 1397 (2002), 1402 (2002), 1403 (2002), 1435 (2002), 1515 (2003) and 1544 (2004).

The Movement emphasizes the need to preserve the institutions of the Palestinian National Authority and Palestinian infrastructure and properties.

The Movement expresses grave concern at the dire humanitarian situation of the Palestinian people and calls for the provision of emergency assistance to them.

In the light of the present situation, the Movement urges the Security Council to shoulder its responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations in the preservation of international peace and security by taking the following measures:

(a) Demanding that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately cease its aggression against the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and immediately withdraw its forces from within the Gaza Strip to positions prior to June 2006;

(b) Calling for an immediate ceasefire between the Israeli and Palestinian sides;

(c) Calling also for the establishment and dispatch of a United Nations observer force to supervise the ceasefire;

(d) Calling upon Israel, the occupying Power, to scrupulously abide by its obligations and responsibilities under the Geneva Conventions relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949.

In that regard, the Movement calls upon the international community, including the Quartet, to take immediate steps, including confidence-building measures between the parties, with the objective of resuming peace negotiations and restarting the peace process.

The Movement will remain seized of this important issue.

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Sixty-first session
Agenda item 27
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Letter dated 13 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the declaration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova issued at Chisinau on 11 November 2006, on the referendum in Georgia's breakaway South Ossetia, which was held on 12 November 2006 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 27.

(*Signed*) Alexei **Tulbure**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

06-61577 (E) 161106

Annex to the letter dated 13 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration on the referendum in Georgia's breakaway South Ossetia, issued at Chisinau on 11 November 2006

The self-proclaimed administration of Georgia's South Ossetia region is going to hold a "referendum" on the region's future on 12 November 2006. We ascertain that this unilateral and counterproductive action of the South Ossetian regime will only trigger additional political tensions.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration believes that both the pseudo-referendum conducted in Moldova's breakaway Transnistrian Region on 17 September 2006 and the forthcoming illegal referendum in South Ossetia are coordinated actions aimed at undermining the international community's efforts to settle the conflicts in the ex-Soviet area.

In this context, the Moldovan authorities consider the 12 November 2006 "referendum" as a destabilizing step and an express display of separatism, which should be firmly condemned by the international community. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration expresses solidarity with the stance of the European Union and the United States of America on the anti-constitutional character of the so-called "referendum", and calls upon other States and international organizations to condemn this action. Moldova does not recognize the so-called presidential election in South Ossetia either, which is due to be held on the same day.

The Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration believes that the conflicts on Georgia's territory can be settled only through a constructive dialogue, by observing Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

United Nations A/61/574–S/2006/887

General Assembly
Security Council

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14 November 2006

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General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda items 13 and 14

Security Council
Sixty-first year

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Identical letters dated 14 November 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to inform you of the continuation of violence and rocket attacks against Israel by Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip during the past week.

From Tuesday, 7 November 2006, through midday yesterday, Monday, 13 November 2006, 42 mortar and Qassam rockets were fired at Israel by Palestinian terrorists operating in the Gaza Strip. Of these, 28 rockets — 23 Qassams and 5 mortars — detonated inside Israel.

The Qassam rockets landed in areas of Israel's south, particularly in the city of Sderot. Five civilians were injured, and numerous others were treated for trauma and shock. The rockets damaged houses, private vehicles, and farmland and equipment.

Along with the persistent rocket attacks, the smuggling of weapons has continued at an alarming rate. Since the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza one year ago, 30 tons of military-grade explosives have been smuggled into the Gaza Strip through tunnels, as well as large quantities of arms. The increases in smuggling and rocket attacks against Israel do not serve the interests of peace, nor do they reflect positively on the Palestinian interest in progress and negotiation.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 13 and 14, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Daniel **Carmon**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

06-61543 (E) 151106

United Nations A/61/575

General Assembly

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14 November 2006

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Sixty-first session
Agenda item 139
Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

Revised budget for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Appropriation 2005/06	$176,664,400
Expenditure 2005/06 (preliminary estimates)	$155,996,000
Appropriation 2006/07	$174,679,200
Revised estimates submitted by the Secretary-General 2006/07	$145,516,400
Recommendation of the Advisory Committee 2006/07	$137,385,100

1. **The recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 11 below would entail a net reduction of $8,131,300 in the revised budget of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/61/521).** The Advisory Committee also makes a number of observations with regard to the administration and management of the Mission.

2. The mandate of UNMEE was established by the Security Council in its resolutions 1312 (2000) and 1320 (2000) and was further adjusted by the Council in a number of subsequent resolutions. The most recent extension of the mandate, for a period of four months, until 31 January 2007, was authorized by the Council in its resolution 1710 (2006). In its resolution 1678 (2006), the Council, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General "to provide to the Council any further recommendations on adjusting UNMEE to focus on support for the demarcation process". In its resolution 1681 (2006), the Council authorized the reconfiguration of the UNMEE military component and approved the deployment within UNMEE of up to 2,300 troops, including up to 230 military observers. The revised budget reflects the reconfiguration and prevailing situation of the Mission.

06-61563 (E) 151106

3. The Advisory Committee was provided with preliminary estimates of financial performance for the financial period 2005/06 and was informed that a formal performance report would be submitted together with the proposed budget for the Mission for the period 2007/08.

4. The General Assembly, by its resolution 60/272 of 30 June 2006, appropriated to the Special Account for UNMEE the amount of $182,237,800 (gross) for the financial period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 and apportioned among Member States $45,559,450 for the period from 1 July to 30 September 2006. The Assembly also decided to apportion the amount of $45,559,450 for the period from 1 October to 31 December 2006.

5. The Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 31 October 2006, a total of $1,162,105,000 had been assessed on Member States in respect of UNMEE since its inception. Payments received against the assessment amounted to $1,103,906,000, leaving an outstanding balance of $58,199,000 as at 31 October 2006. The cash position of the Mission as at 31 October 2006 was $30.3 million, and unliquidated obligations for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 amounted to $32.1 million.

6. The Advisory Committee was also informed that payments of $275.2 million had been made to Member States as at 31 October 2006 in respect of troop-cost reimbursement for the period from the inception of the Mission to the end of August 2006 and that payments for troop costs for the period from 1 September 2006 to 30 June 2007 were estimated at $25.8 million. With regard to contingent-owned equipment, the Committee was informed that payments made to Member States as at 31 October 2006 amounted to $169.5 million and that an estimated amount of $12.2 million would be required for the period up to 30 June 2007.

7. The revised resource requirements of UNMEE for the financial period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 reflect a reduction in military strength (from 3,404 to 2,300) and in civilian personnel (from 228 to 205 international staff and from 74 to 68 United Nations Volunteers). The revised resource requirements, which amount to $145,516,400, show a decrease of $29,162,800 (gross) from the current appropriation of $174,679,200 (gross).

8. The Advisory Committee notes that the revised budget identifies elements of the results-based budgeting framework, such as indicators of achievement and outputs that need to be modified to reflect the reconfiguration of UNMEE. **In this connection, the Committee points out that indicators of achievement in the next budget submission should reflect actual functions of the Mission.**

9. **The Advisory Committee also points out that information in support of a number of proposals included in the revised budget is inadequate and lacking precision. For example, although there is a substantial reduction in the military component, no rationale is given in the budget as to why the civilian component should be reduced by only 23 international posts and 6 United Nations Volunteer positions; the rationale for the redeployment of posts should have been explained more clearly.** It was subsequently explained to the Committee that although the number of military personnel will be reduced, this will not have an impact on the number of locations in which the Mission conducts its operations.

10. **In this connection, the Advisory Committee trusts that information on the full impact of the reconfiguration on the overall staffing requirements of the**

Mission, the redeployment of posts and the relationship between the military, substantive and support components will be provided in the proposed budget for UNMEE for the financial period 2007/08. Moreover, the Committee expects that the performance report for the financial period 2005/06 will include specific data on the workload of the Conduct and Discipline Team at UNMEE (see A/60/790, para. 17), as well as on quick-impact projects for which the implementation of a previous recommendation of the Advisory Committee is still outstanding (see A/60/790, para. 24).

11. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, of delays in the deployment of military and civilian components of UNMEE and of the impact of the continuation of the ban on helicopter flights imposed by Eritrean authorities (see annex). According to the Secretariat, the delays in the deployment of military personnel, as well as the lower-than-budgeted incumbency rate among civilian personnel, would entail a further estimated reduction of $191,400 in resource requirements; potential savings could also be expected due to diesel restrictions for generators ($750,000) and vehicles ($500,000). Moreover, should the ban on helicopter flights stay in place until 30 June 2007, potential savings could amount to $6,689,900. Thus, the total amount of potential savings that could be projected to take account of delays in the deployment of military and civilian components of UNMEE, diesel restrictions and the continuing ban on helicopter flights is estimated at $8,131,300 (see annex). **The Committee recommends, accordingly, that the revised estimates of $145,516,400 submitted by the Secretary-General for the Mission be reduced by the total amount of projected savings of $8,131,300. Should the ban on helicopter flights be lifted before 30 June 2007, the Committee expects that a proposal to restore all or part of the relevant amount ($6,689,900) would be supported by the latest budget implementation data.**

12. The action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNMEE for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 is indicated in paragraph 25 of the revised budget for 2006/07 (A/61/521). **In view of its comments in the paragraph above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the appropriation decided upon by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/272 for the maintenance of the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 be reduced from $174,679,200 to $137,385,100.**

Documentation

- Revised budget for the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007: report of the Secretary-General (A/61/521)
- General Assembly resolution 60/272
- Report of the Secretary-General on Ethiopia and Eritrea (S/2006/749)
- Security Council resolutions 1312 (2000), 1320 (2000), 1678 (2006), 1681 (2006) and 1710 (2006)

Annex

Current and projected expenditure for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007

(United States dollars)

	Apportionment	*Original proposed revised amount for 2006/07*	*Expenditure as at 31 Oct 2006*	*Projected*		*Reason for savings*
				Total projections to 30 June 2007 (including expenditure as at 31 October 2006)	*Estimated unencumbered balance as at 30 June 2007*	
I. Military and police personnel						
Military observers	7 822 800	7 822 800	2 556 157	7 755 100	67 700	Delayed deployment factor revised from 2% to 3%
Military contingents	70 262 500	55 347 200	26 196 430	55 347 200	-	
Civilian police		-	-	-	-	
Formed police units		-	-	-	-	
Subtotal	**78 085 300**	**63 170 000**	**28 752 587.0**	**63 102 300**	**67 700**	
II. Civilian personnel						
International staff	29 178 800	22 113 600	6 462 465	22 113 600	-	
National staff	1 198 400	1 329 800	346 062	1 245 800	84 000	Delayed deployment factor revised from 5% to 11%
United Nations Volunteers	2 564 700	2 405 300	597 002	2 365 600	39 700	Delayed deployment factor revised from 5% to 7%
Subtotal	**32 941 900**	**25 848 700**	**7 405 529.0**	**25 725 000**	**123 700**	
III. Operational costs						
General temporary assistance	622 300	622 300	-	622 300	-	
Government-provided personnel	-	-	-	-	-	
Civilian electoral observers	-	-	-	-	-	
Consultants	-	-	-	-	-	
Official travel	520 700	666 800	206 489	666 800	-	
Facilities and infrastructure	16 481 300	14 794 900	5 926 945	14 044 900	750 000	Diesel restrictions for generators: 60%, or 700,000 litres, representing savings of $750,000 over the 9-month period

	Apportionment	Original proposed revised amount for 2006/07	Expenditure as at 31 Oct 2006	Projected: Total projections to 30 June 2007 (including expenditure as at 31 October 2006)	Projected: Estimated unencumbered balance as at 30 June 2007	Reason for savings
Ground transportation	6 094 500	5 888 200	953 416	5 388 200	500 000	Diesel restrictions for vehicles 40%, or 475,000 litres, representing savings of $500,000 over the 9-month period
Air transportation	22 471 800	15 587 200	3 686 295	8 897 300	6 689 900	Savings if the ban on helicopters stays in place until 30 June 2007
Naval transportation	-		-	-	-	
Communications	5 760 800	4 885 400	2 424 840	4 885 400	-	
Information technology	1 088 500	1 021 600	160 605	1 021 600	-	
Medical	2 168 500	1 590 300	1 017 328	1 590 300	-	
Special equipment	1 387 700	992 500	683 700	992 500	-	
Miscellaneous supplies, services and equipment	7 055 900	10 448 500	333 203	10 448 500	-	
Quick-impact projects	-		-		-	
Subtotal	**63 652 000**	**56 497 700**	**15 392 821.0**	**48 557 800**	**7 939 900**	
Gross	174 679 200	145 516 400	51 550 937.0	137 385 100	8 131 300	
Staff assessment income	3 563 700				-	
Net	171 115 500	145 516 400	51 550 937.0	137 385 100	8 131 300	
Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)		-		-	-	
Total	**174 679 200**	**145 516 400**	**51 550 937**	**137 385 100**	**8 131 300**	

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Sixty-first session
Agenda item 116
Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2008-2009

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to submit, in off-budget years, an outline of the proposed programme budget for the following biennium. Accordingly, the outline for the biennium 2008-2009 is hereby submitted. The level of the contingency fund for the biennium 2008-2009 is recommended to be adjusted by 0.6 per cent from 0.75 per cent to a level of 1.35 per cent of the overall level of the proposed programme budget outline.

06-61687 (E) 211106

I. Introduction

1. In accordance with the provisions of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, the Secretary-General submits, in off-budget years, an outline of the programme budget for the following biennium, which should contain an indication of the following:

(a) Preliminary estimate of resources to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(b) Priorities, reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

(d) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources.

The outline for the biennium 2008-2009 is hereby submitted.

II. Preliminary estimate of resources needed to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium

2. In establishing a preliminary estimate of resources for the biennium 2008-2009, the approved level of appropriations and related commitments, namely $3,839.5 million, was taken as the starting point. These existing provisions consist of (a) the initial appropriation of $3,798.9 million; (b) subsequent additional appropriations of $31.0 million approved by the General Assembly for the funding of special political missions, and the implementation of reform proposals contained in documents A/60/846 and Add.1-4; and (c) subsequent commitments of $9.6 million authorized by the General Assembly for the Human Rights Council and for additional office accommodation in Geneva for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The preliminary estimate, expressed in 2006-2007 prices, has been arrived at as follows:

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2008-2009		*Millions of United States dollars*
Appropriations for 2006-2007[a]		3 839.5
Plus: Full provision for new posts approved in 2006-2007 (para. 3)	31.5	
Less: One-time costs in 2006-2007 (para. 4)	(46.3)	
Plus: Provision for new or expanded activities/events foreseen and/or mandated in 2008-2009 (para. 5)	29.2	
Changes		**14.4**
Subtotal		**3 853.9**
Additional provision required for special political missions at the current programme level		**284.6**
Preliminary estimate for established activities 2008-2009		**4 138.5**

[a] Includes the initial appropriation (General Assembly resolution 60/247 A-C), subsequent revised appropriations (General Assembly resolution 60/281, General Assembly resolution 60/283) and commitments approved by the General Assembly (A/60/608/Add.5 and A/60/721).

A. Full provision for new posts

3. In its resolution 59/278 of 23 December 2004, the General Assembly endorsed the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/59/415) on the proposed programme budget outline, including, inter alia, the continuation of the practice of costing provisions for new posts at 50 per cent for the Professional level and above and 65 per cent for the General Service and related categories. Consequently, the full biennial provision in 2008-2009 for those posts that were newly established in the biennium 2006-2007 and at present are only partially funded in the biennium 2006-2007 would require an additional $31.5 million in the biennium 2008-2009. This additional provision is required to maintain the regular budget established post staffing table at the same level of posts as has been already approved for the biennium 2006-2007.

B. One-time costs in the biennium 2006-2007

4. One-time costs in the biennium 2006-2007 amounting to $46.3 million would not be required. Such provisions, which were included and approved in the context of the consideration of the proposed programme budget, amount to $19.1 million, mainly relating to construction, alteration and improvement costs associated with security projects, technological improvements to the printing plant at the United Nations Office at Geneva, and the establishment of infrastructure for the United Nations enterprise network. One-time costs were also approved for the biennium 2006-2007 in the context of a number of revised estimates submitted by the Secretary-General subsequent to the preparation of the proposed programme budget. Related resources, amounting to $15.5 million, mainly consist of non-recurrent provisions approved for the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa, and for the implementation of the 2005 World Summit Outcome. Other one-time costs, totalling $11.7 million, relate to various programme budget implications approved for the biennium 2006-2007, including conference servicing provisions for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. For the purpose of the present report, all costs provided in the biennium 2006-2007 for special political missions have been treated as being of a recurrent nature, consistent with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that the methodology should reflect the recurrent nature of the provision.[1]

C. Provision for programme changes in the biennium 2008-2009

5. During the biennium 2008-2009, resources are foreseen to strengthen human rights and humanitarian assistance, the economic and social sector, humanitarian activities, as well as the United Nations Office at Nairobi. Preliminary estimates also include estimated requirements for the implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards, and for the establishment of a crisis management capacity within the Department of Safety and Security. Relevant estimated requirements are also included for the holding of the twelfth session of the United

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/60/7), para. 40.

Nations Conference on Trade and Development, for preparatory work related to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and for public information support related to the holding of other conferences and meetings in the next biennium. As a result of the strengthening of these areas, projected requirements amounting to a 0.8 per cent growth of programme resources, or $29.2 million, are foreseen as needs for the biennium 2008-2009.

6. The present estimates do not take into account adjustments to requirements that may arise following forthcoming General Assembly review of approaches and alternatives as detailed in a number of critical reports to be considered during the course of the sixty-first session of the Assembly. These areas include the implementation of a next-generation enterprise resource planning system, after service health insurance, United Nations oversight and governance, and enhancing the role of the subregional offices of ECA. At its sixty-first session, the General Assembly will also consider a report prepared pursuant to resolution 60/246 of 23 December 2005, in which the Secretary-General was requested to submit recommendations on how resources could be added to the Development Account (A/61/282). Decisions on these issues, as well as on reform proposals for the expansion of training, and any related implications for outline provisions for 2008-2009, would be considered by the Assembly at its sixty-first session in accordance with established practice.

7. As regards the ongoing review of oversight and governance, decisions taken in this context may lead to the introduction of different procedures for part IX, Internal oversight, of the programme budget. As no new arrangements have been approved at this time, part IX has been dealt with and presented in the traditional manner. However, provision has been made for real growth under this part of the programme budget at a level of 0.6 per cent, exceeding the overall real growth of 0.4 per cent for regular budget established activities.

D. Special political missions

8. Requirements for the funding of special political missions have significantly increased in recent years. In the bienniums 2004-2005 and 2006-2007, provisions proposed in the context of the programme budget outline amounted to $110.2 million and $180 million, respectively. Taking into account the expansion of special political requirements and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the proposed programme budget outline for 2006-2007 (A/59/600), the General Assembly initially authorized some $356 million to be available in the biennium 2006-2007 to provide funding for such special political missions as might be authorized by the Assembly and the Security Council. This provision was subsequently adjusted by the General Assembly in resolutions 60/255 of 8 May 2006 and 60/281 of 30 June 2006, resulting in an increase of $17.4 million to provide total resources for special political missions for the year 2006 in the amount of $373.4 million. It is estimated that full biennial provision in 2008-2009 for special political missions currently existing in the biennium 2006-2007 would amount to $658.0 million. While the present composition of special political missions will change somewhat in the biennium 2008-2009, it is not anticipated that the overall level will trend downwards. The maintenance of the initial provision of $373.4 million for the biennium 2006-2007 would seriously and materially underestimate likely requirements as it would provide only slightly more than half

of currently anticipated biennial requirements. Accordingly, an increase of $284.6 million is included in the outline estimate, which would provide funding for special political missions at a level of $658.0 million in the biennium 2008-2009.

E. Summary

9. The preparation of detailed programme budget proposals for 2008-2009 will maintain a focus on ensuring resources are committed in support of accomplishments expected for the period and objectives established by Member States. Budget preparation will continue to include a detailed review of programme outputs to ensure their contribution and relevance, under approved strategies, for the fullest possible achievement of expected accomplishments consistent with the application of regulation 5.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. Thus, the budget proposals will reflect the benefit of further reviews of possible obsolete activities, additional cost-effective measures and simplified procedures.

10. The outline requirements would be subject in due course to recosting to biennium 2008-2009 costs. Such a recosting exercise will reflect, inter alia, changes owing to both inflation and exchange rates. Experience has proven that exchange rates cannot be reliably predicted for the time periods involved. However, inflation adjustments may be more closely approximated at this stage and would extend to about $235.0 million on the assumption of cumulative annual inflation rates of 2.8 per cent prevailing through 2009. Accordingly, total requirements for the biennium 2008-2009 adjusted for inflation, but not yet for exchange rates, would amount to $4,373.5 million.

III. Priorities reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature

11. In the proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009,[2] the following priorities were proposed: maintenance of international peace and security; promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences; development of Africa; promotion of human rights; effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts; promotion of justice and international law; disarmament; and drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. **It is proposed that the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 should also manifest these priorities.** The proposed distribution of resources by parts of the budget is shown in the annex.

[2] A/61/6 (Prog. 1-20).

IV. Real growth compared with the previous budget

12. **The preliminary estimate ($3,480.5 million), before inclusion of special political missions, represents an increase of $14.4 million, or 0.4 per cent, compared with the approved appropriations and related provisions for the biennium 2006-2007. Once account is taken of the full inclusion of required provisions for special political missions, the total preliminary estimate of $4,138.5 million would represent an increase of $299.0 million, or 7.8 per cent, compared with existing provisions for the biennium 2006-2007.**

V. Size of the contingency fund

13. The size of the contingency fund was set at 0.75 per cent of the overall level of resources for the first outline and for all subsequent ones. However, the experience of recent bienniums reflects the increasing occurrence of situations where potential charges exceed the balance available within the contingency fund. In December 2003, in the absence of formal decisions on programme budget implications and revised estimates under consideration, the Secretary-General proposed a number of adjustments in the context of the related consolidated statement issued at that time. Following consideration of the consolidated statement, General Assembly action on the related programme budget implications and revised estimates avoided the potential exhaustion of the fund prior to the start of the 2004-2005 biennium. In the current biennium, it has not proved possible to provide for such additional requirements through curtailment or deferral of activities, or through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas. Instead, it has been necessary for additional amounts to be appropriated for the biennium 2006-2007 in excess of the remaining balance in the contingency fund. **Accordingly, the General Assembly may wish to take into account this recent experience in establishing the contingency fund for the biennium 2008-2009 at a level that would provide for those additional expenditures which the fund would be expected to bear during the period in accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/213. It is recommended that the level be adjusted upwards by 0.6 per cent from 0.75 per cent to a level of 1.35 per cent, or $55.9 million, for the biennium 2008-2009.**

Annex

Preliminary indicative estimates for the biennium 2008-2009

(Millions of United States dollars)

Expenditures by part of programme budget	*2006-2007 appropriation*[a]	*Resource change*		*Total*
		Amount	*Percentage*	
I. Overall policymaking, direction and coordination	667.4	(4.7)	(0.7)	662.7
II. Political affairs (not including special political missions)	196.5	3.0	1.5	199.5
III. International justice and law	77.3	0.4	0.5	77.7
IV. International cooperation for development	372.2	1.0	0.3	373.2
V. Regional cooperation for development	425.7	2.0	0.5	427.7
VI. Human rights and humanitarian affairs	209.3	21.4	10.2	230.7
VII. Public information	177.3	0.5	0.4	177.8
VIII. Common support services	517.4	3.5	0.7	520.9
IX. Internal oversight	31.3	0.2	0.6	31.5
X. Jointly financed administrative activities and special expenses	104.4	0.8	0.8	105.2
XI. Capital expenditures	76.4	(22.0)	(28.8)	54.4
XII. Safety and security	191.3	1.6	0.8	192.9
XIII. Development Account	14.0	—	—	14.0
XIV. Staff assessment	405.6	6.7	1.7	412.3
Regular budget established activities 2008-2009	**3 466.1**	**14.4**	**0.4**	**3 480.5**
Provision for special political missions	373.4	284.6	76.2	658.0
Total	**3 839.5**	**299.0**	**7.8**	**4 138.5**

[a] Includes the initial appropriation (General Assembly resolution 60/247), subsequent revised appropriations (General Assembly resolution 60/281, General Assembly resolution 60/283) and commitments approved by the General Assembly (A/60/608/Add.5 and A/60/721).

United Nations A/61/577

General Assembly

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15 November 2006

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Sixty-first session
Agenda items 117 and 126

Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

United Nations pension system

Administrative and financial implications arising from the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to the General Assembly on its fifty-third session contains additional requirements relating to the overall administrative expenses of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund for the biennium 2006-2007 that would have financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the present report identifies the financial implications that would arise for the regular budget should the Assembly adopt the recommendations submitted to it in the report of the Board.

The additional requirements under the regular budget for the biennium 2006-2007 resulting from the recommendations of the Board and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions are estimated at $69,400. Every effort will be made to meet those requirements from within the current appropriation under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, and the actual expenditures will be reported in the context of the second performance report for the biennium 2006-2007.

06-61698 (E) 171106

I. Introduction

1. The report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board on its fifty-third session (A/61/9) contains two recommendations that would have an impact on the regular budget share of the cost of the central secretariat of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, namely: (a) the 2002 Board recommendations relating to the benefit provisions of the Fund; and (b) the revised budget estimates for the biennium 2006-2007.

2. The report of the Board has been considered by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, whose conclusions and recommendations are contained in its report on the United Nations pension system (A/61/545).

II. Recommendations and decisions of the Board

A. Consideration of the 2002 recommendations

3. The Board's recommendations in 2002 with respect to pension benefits were included in the agenda of its fifty-third session following its decision in 2004 to address in 2006, subject to a favourable actuarial valuation as at 31 December 2005, the possible total elimination of the balance of the 1.5 per cent reduction and, on an equal footing, the possible elimination of the limitation on the right to restoration based on length of prior service (A/59/9, para. 146 (d)).

4. Recalling General Assembly resolutions 57/286 and 59/269 and taking into consideration the latest actuarial valuation, which revealed a fifth consecutive surplus amounting to 1.29 per cent of pensionable remuneration, and the latest report of the Committee of Actuaries, the Board decided to: (a) recommend that as from 1 April 2007 the current reduction in the first consumer price index adjustment due under the Pension Adjustment System to benefits in award be reduced from 1.0 per cent to 0.5 per cent and that a 0.5 per cent increase be applied on the occasion of the next adjustment to the benefits in payment to existing retirees and beneficiaries who have already had the 1.0 per cent reduction applied to their benefits; and (b) recommend implementation as from 1 April 2007 of its recommendation already approved in 2002 to eliminate the limitation on the right to restoration for existing and future contributing participants, based on length of prior service.

5. Following its review of the administrative implications with respect to implementing the above recommendations to reverse two of its earlier economy measures, the Board agreed to reflect the required resources in the revised budget estimates for the biennium 2006-2007. In order to implement the recommendations, the Board therefore decided to recommend resources for general temporary assistance amounting to $125,300 for implementation of the recommendation to reduce the current reduction factor by 0.5 per cent in the first pension adjustments due for existing and future beneficiaries and $72,500 for implementation of the recommendation to eliminate the limitation on the right to restoration based on years of service. A total requirement of $197,800 is requested, which is subject to the cost-sharing arrangement by which the Fund bears two thirds of the costs ($131,900) and the United Nations one third ($65,900).

B. Revised budget estimates for the biennium 2006-2007

6. Owing to the increase in responsibilities of the Information Management Systems Service within the secretariat of the Fund and also those added by the move to consolidate, where possible, the information technology services of the secretariat and the Investment Management Service, the Board recommended the reclassification of two information technology posts in the Fund secretariat from the P-4 to the P-5 level. Additional resources amounting to $27,700 would be required, subject to the cost-sharing ratio of two thirds to one third between the Fund ($18,500) and the United Nations ($9,200).

7. The Fund is currently audited twice a year by the Board of Auditors and on a continual basis by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS). Such is the importance attributed to the audit function by the Board that at its fifty-third session it decided to establish an Audit Committee as an integral part of its machinery in order to increase transparency and communication with respect to audit activities of the Fund. The Board also recommended additional resources for both external and internal audit functions.

8. In order to provide additional coverage of the audit of information technology and investment management, not previously provided by the Board of Auditors, the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board recommended increasing the total number of auditor weeks from 53 to 65. Additional resources amounting to $85,900 would be required by the Board of Auditors that would be subject to the cost-sharing ratio of five sixths to one sixth between the Fund ($71,600) and the United Nations ($14,300).

9. Additional resources to enable OIOS to provide more extensive internal audit coverage aimed at enhancing the Fund's internal controls, accountability and efficiency, as well as its ability to address the challenges and achieve the objectives set out in its management charter covering the biennium 2006-2007, are requested. More specifically, the additional resources are essential for OIOS to effectively deliver the staff-hours required in order to conduct the high-impact audits identified in the risk assessment. The Board has recommended the provision of additional general temporary assistance resources equivalent to 12 months at the P-3 level, amounting to $132,400, to enable OIOS to provide extensive internal audit coverage, which would be subject to the cost-sharing ratio of five sixths to one sixth between the Fund ($110,300) and the United Nations ($22,100).

III. Additional resource requirements

10. The recommendations and decisions of the Board would give rise to overall additional requirements amounting to $111,500 for the United Nations share of the administrative and audit costs of the Fund.

11. In accordance with existing arrangements, an estimated 62.2 per cent of that amount would be attributable to the regular budget of the United Nations, with the balance to be reimbursed by the funds and programmes. Accordingly, additional requirements in the amount of $69,400 would represent the regular budget share for the biennium 2006-2007.

IV. Action required from the General Assembly

12. **Should the General Assembly approve the recommendations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board and the relevant recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, additional requirements that would arise for the United Nations are estimated at $111,500. Of the total requirements for the biennium 2006-2007, the cost under the regular budget would amount to $69,400, and the balance of $42,100 would be reimbursed to the United Nations by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund. Every effort will be made to meet the additional requirements of $69,400 from within the current appropriation under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, and the actual expenditures will be reported in the context of the second performance report for the biennium 2006-2007.**

13. **The General Assembly may wish to:**

(a) **Take note of the present report;**

(b) **Request the Secretary-General to report on any additional requirements arising from the recommendations of the Board in the context of the second performance report for the biennium 2006-2007.**

United Nations A/61/578–S/2006/891

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda items 13 and 14

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Identical letters dated 15 November 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to inform you of the aggressive assault against Israel by Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip, which occurred today and last night. These attacks are part of the continuing Palestinian campaign of terror to kill Israelis and weaken Israel.

Since I last wrote to you, yesterday, the western Negev of Israel was attacked with 14 more Qassam rockets launched by Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip, 10 of which landed in the city of Sderot.

A 57-year-old woman was murdered by Palestinian terrorists when a Qassam rocket fell as she was walking on the street in Sderot. Two people were treated for severe injuries; one, a 24-year-old security guard, had his legs severed by shrapnel after a rocket hit outside the home of Defense Minister Amir Peretz, and another, a 17-year-old boy, was seriously wounded in the stomach after a rocket hit the Sderot city centre. Three other youths were lightly wounded by shrapnel.

Hours after the rocket attacks on Sderot, four rockets were fired into Ashkelon, a larger city on the north-west lip of the Negev, home to a population of more than 100,000 residents. Countless residents of Ashkelon were treated for shock and trauma.

Israel has the right to defend its citizens from these attacks, and it will. The Palestinians must curb the unremitting terrorist attacks and renounce violence and terror. Continued calls for armed resistance by the Palestinian leadership, and the public and vocal expressions of its refusal to recognize Israel, exacerbate the situation and fuel further violence with hate and vehemence.

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The Palestinian Authority must take control of its people and territory and end the terror against Israel. Our policy here is plain and simple: if the rocket attacks stop, Israel has no need for self-defence.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 13 and 14, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Daniel **Carmon**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/61/579–S/2006/896

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
16 November 2006

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General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda item 19
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Letter dated 14 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I write to bring to your attention some disconcerting statements made recently by the purported "Embassy" of the Republic of Turkey to the legally invalid "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus", concerning the intention of the Turkish Government to finance a project that aims to transform the annexes of the Apostolos Andreas Monastery into a 120-room hotel.

According to the Turkish Cypriot newspaper *Kibris* of 30 October 2006, the so-called "Chairman of the Aid Mission" of the purported "Embassy" in the occupied area of the Republic of Cyprus, has announced that Turkey is ready to provide 1.5 million new Turkish lira in financial aid for the restoration and reorganization of the surroundings and annexes of the Apostolos Andreas Monastery, in order to promote religious tourism in the area.

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus strongly protests such developments aimed at destroying the character of a highly important religious and cultural landmark of Cyprus. It should be pointed out that any unauthorized alterations to this historic religious site that disregard the restoration plans already undertaken by the Church of Cyprus, which is the lawful owner of the Monastery, will not only destroy its cultural and religious character but will also endanger the rest of the building.

Even more gravely, it would constitute a blatant violation of international humanitarian law and of the law of armed conflict, which both stipulate with clarity the obligations of an occupying Power — in this case of the Republic of Turkey — in the field of property rights of the lawful owners of such properties.

Regrettably, this case would constitute, if it is not prevented, a deplorable addition to a series of similar cases, which demonstrate the direct involvement of Turkey in the unlawful exploitation of Greek Cypriot properties in the occupied area of the Republic of Cyprus. In this regard, tangible proof of this illegal and politically irresponsible attitude of Turkey was provided recently by the "decision"

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of the "Council of Ministers" of the so-called Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (published in the *Official Gazette* dated 27 March 2006), which states in paragraph 3 that an "Advisor, who will be appointed by the Aid Mission of the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Nicosia" will be participating in a committee set up for the purpose of exploitation of properties for tourism in a number of Greek Cypriot villages in the occupied Karpasia peninsula. Furthermore, in paragraph 4 (B) of the said "decision", it is stated that five members of the Board of Directors of a company to be established for this project's marketing purposes "will be proposed by the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey".

In view of the ongoing efforts for the implementation of the 8 July agreement aimed at the preparation of the ground for the full resumption of negotiations on the Cyprus problem and taking into consideration that the property issue is one of the most difficult elements of this problem, Turkey must finally assume its responsibilities as the occupying Power and abandon any involvement in the unlawful exploitation of Greek Cypriot properties. Its actions in the specific case of the Apostolos Andreas Monastery are even more treacherous as they are related to a site of highly religious, historic, cultural and symbolic value for the Greek Cypriots. Any attempt to turn the premises of this Monastery into a hotel would undoubtedly contribute to the growth of suspicion and mistrust between the two communities and poison the good climate, which is fundamental to the smooth development of the political process.

The Government of Cyprus wishes to express its appreciation for the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus to achieve progress on the issue of the long-overdue renovation and rehabilitation of the Apostolos Andreas Monastery, in accordance with the restoration plans submitted by its lawful owner, namely, the Church of Cyprus.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Andreas D. **Mavroyiannis**

United Nations A/61/580–S/2006/897

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda items 47, 52 and 62 (a)

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Letter dated 15 November 2006 from the Permanent Representatives of China, the Congo and Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the speeches made by H.E. Mr. Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Mr. Denis Sassou-N'guesso, President of the Republic of Congo, and H.E. Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, at the opening ceremony of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, and the Declaration of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (see annex).

We would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 47, 52 and 62 (a), and as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Wang** Guangya
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Basile **Ikouebe**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Congo to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Dawit **Yohannes**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 15 November 2006 from the Permanent Representatives of China, the Congo and Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Chinese]

Address by Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China, at the opening ceremony of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation

Beijing, 4 November 2006

Our meeting today will go down in history. We, leaders of China and African countries, in a common pursuit of friendship, peace, cooperation and development, are gathered in Beijing today to renew friendship, discuss ways of growing China-Africa relations and promote unity and cooperation among developing countries. On behalf of the Chinese Government and people and in my own name, I wish to extend a very warm welcome to you and deep appreciation to you for attending the Summit. I also want to extend, through the African leaders present today, the cordial greetings and best wishes of the Chinese people to the brotherly African people.

The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation was jointly set up by China and Africa in October 2000, a major initiative taken to promote traditional China-Africa friendship and cooperation. In the six years since then, two ministerial conferences have been held, first in Beijing and then in Addis Ababa. Today, the Forum serves as an important platform and effective mechanism for conducting collective dialogue, exchanging experience in governance and enhancing mutual trust and cooperation in practical terms between China and African countries.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the inauguration of diplomatic ties between New China and African countries. Though vast oceans keep China and Africa far apart, the friendship between our peoples has a long history and, having been tested by times, is strong and vigorous. In the long course of history, the Chinese and African peoples, with an unyielding and tenacious spirit, created splendid and distinctive ancient civilisations. In the modern era, our peoples launched unremitting and heroic struggle against subjugation, and have written a glorious chapter in the course of pursuing freedom and liberation, upholding human dignity, and striving for economic development and national

rejuvenation. The progress and development of China and Africa are a major contribution to the advancement of human civilisation.

During the past five decades, the Chinese and African peoples have forged close unity, and our friendship has flourished. China-Africa exchanges and cooperation have grown in all fields and yielded fruitful results. In international affairs, China and Africa enjoy trust and cooperate closely to uphold the legitimate rights and interests of the developing world.

In all these years, China has firmly supported Africa in winning liberation and pursuing development. China has trained technical personnel and other professionals in various fields for Africa. It has built the Tanzara Railway and other infrastructural projects and sent medical teams and peacekeepers to Africa. All this testifies to the friendship cherished by the Chinese people towards the African people. We in China will not forget Africa's full support for restoring the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations. Nor will we forget the sincere and ardent wish of African countries and people for China to realise complete and peaceful reunification and achieve the goal of building a modern nation.

Today, China-Africa friendship is deeply rooted in the hearts of our two peoples, and our friendship has endured the test of time and changes in the world. This is because we have never strayed from the principle of enhancing friendship, treating each other as equals, extending mutual support and promoting common development in building our ties.

— Friendship provides a solid foundation for reinforcing China-Africa friendly ties. We both value our traditional friendship and are committed to enhancing it.

— Treating each other as equals is crucial for ensuring mutual trust. We both respect the development path independently embarked upon by the other side. We both are serious in addressing each other's concerns and are eager to benefit from each other's practice in development.

— Mutual support is the driving force behind the ever growing China-Africa cooperation. We both wish to see progress in the development endeavour of the other side and sincerely support such endeavour. And we are engaged in comprehensive cooperation.

— Common development is the shared aspiration of the Chinese and African peoples. We are committed to pursuing mutually beneficial cooperation to bring the benefits of development to our peoples.

The world today is undergoing profound and complex changes. But peace, development and cooperation remain the calling of the times. There is a growing trend towards multipolarity and economic globalization. Science and technology are making daily advance, regional cooperation is deepening and there is increasing interdependence among nations. All this has created rare development opportunities for the international community. On the other hand, imbalance in global development, widening gap between North and South, the combination of traditional and non-traditional security threats as well as increasing factors of instability and uncertainty standing in the way of peace and development all pose a daunting challenge to developing countries in their pursuit of sustainable development.

China is the largest developing country, and Africa is home to the largest number of developing countries. Our combined population accounts for over a third of the world total. Without peace and development in China and Africa, there will be no global peace and development.

In this new era, China and Africa share increasing common interests and have a growing mutual need. The forging of a new type of China-Africa strategic partnership is determined by the dynamics of China-Africa cooperation, and it represents our wish to promote global peace and development. Building strong ties between China and Africa will not only promote development of each side, but also help cement unity and cooperation among developing countries and contribute to establishing a just and equitable new international political and economic order. To enhance this new type of strategic partnership, China will strengthen cooperation with Africa in the following fields:

First, deepen political relation of equality and mutual trust. We will maintain high-level contacts and mutual visits, establish a regular high-level political dialogue mechanism and conduct strategic dialogue to enhance mutual political trust and traditional friendship and achieve common progress through unity.

Second, broaden win-win economic cooperation. We will give full play to our respective strength, enhance economic and trade ties, broaden areas of cooperation, support cooperation between our business communities, upgrade cooperation in human resources development and explore new ways of cooperation so that both sides will share the benefits of development.

Third, expand exchange for cultural enrichment. We will strengthen cultural and people-to-people exchanges to increase mutual understanding and friendship between our two peoples and particularly between the younger generation. We will enhance exchanges and cooperation in education, science and technology, culture, public health, sports and tourism to provide intellectual motivation and cultural support for China-Africa cooperation.

Fourth, promote balanced and harmonious global development. We will enhance South-South cooperation and promote North-South dialogue. We urge developed countries to honour their promises on market access, aid and debt relief. We should strive to meet the Millennium Development Goals and steer economic globalisation in the direction of creating prosperity for all.

Fifth, strengthen cooperation and mutual support in international affairs. We are committed to upholding the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, respecting diversity of the world and promoting democracy in international relations. We call for enhancing international security cooperation based on mutual trust and benefit and addressing each other's concerns through consultation and coordination so that we can jointly respond to threats and challenges to global security.

China values its friendship with Africa. To strengthen unity and cooperation with Africa is a key principle guiding China's foreign policy. China will continue to support Africa in implementing the New Partnership for Africa's Development and in its effort to strengthen itself through unity, achieve peace and stability and economic revitalisation in the region and raise its international standing.

To forge a new type of China-Africa strategic partnership and strengthen our cooperation in more areas and at a higher level, the Chinese Government will take the following eight steps:

1. Double its 2006 assistance to Africa by 2009.
2. Provide US$3 billion of preferential loans and US$2 billion of preferential buyer's credits to Africa in the next three years.
3. Set up a China-Africa development fund which will reach US$5 billion to encourage Chinese companies to invest in Africa and provide support to them.
4. Build a conference centre for the African Union to support African countries in their efforts to strengthen themselves through unity and support the process of African integration.
5. Cancel debt in the form of all the interest-free government loans that matured at the end of 2005 owed by the heavily indebted poor countries and the least developed countries in Africa that have diplomatic relations with China.
6. Further open up China's market to Africa by increasing from 190 to over 440 the number of export items to China receiving zero-tariff treatment from the least developed countries in Africa having diplomatic ties with China.
7. Establish three to five trade and economic cooperation zones in Africa in the next three years.
8. Over the next three years, train 15,000 African professionals; send 100 senior agricultural experts to Africa; set up 10 special agricultural technology demonstration centres in Africa; build 30 hospitals in Africa and provide RMB 300 million of grant for providing artemisinin and building 30 malaria prevention and treatment centres to fight malaria in Africa; dispatch 300 youth volunteers to Africa; build 100 rural schools in Africa; and increase the number of Chinese government scholarships to African students from the current 2,000 per year to 4,000 per year by 2009.

Both China and Africa are cradles of human civilisation and lands of great promise. Common destiny and common goals have brought us together. China will remain a close friend, reliable partner and good brother of Africa.

Let's join hands and endeavour to promote development in both China and Africa, improve the well-being of our peoples and build a harmonious world of enduring peace and common prosperity!

[Original: French]

Statement by the President of the Republic of Congo, Chairperson of the African Union, His Excellency Mr. Denis Sassou-N'guesso at the opening ceremony of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation

Beijing, 4 November 2006

On the occasion of this very special meeting, I would like to begin by telling His Excellency the President of the People's Republic of China and the Government and people of China how much their warm welcome and thoughtfulness have touched all the African delegations present at this Forum, which offers a platform for dialogue, cooperation and the strengthening of the strategic partnership between China and Africa.

Africa regards this as evidence of the esteem of a people to whom it has always felt particularly drawn.

We wish to stress how very grateful we are to our dear friend, His Excellency Mr. Hu Jintao, and the Chinese Government for taking the positive step of convening this historic meeting.

As everyone knows, the friendship we are celebrating today has deep roots.

Historians believe that the first contacts between the Asian and African continents took place three millenniums ago and that those between China and Africa began in the fourteenth century. But the rapprochement between China and Africa started in the middle of the twentieth century, in Indonesia, at the Bandung Conference, which was held from 18 to 24 April 1955.

That first Afro-Asian meeting, which brought together 29 countries, enabled China to lay the foundations of friendship with the African countries.

During that meeting, Prime Minister Zhou Enlai, in a memorable speech, hailed the liberation struggles then under way in Africa and condemned apartheid.

Once the foundations had been laid in this manner, consolidation was quick to follow, in that a long tour of Africa from 14 December 1963 to 4 February 1964 enabled Prime Minister Zhou Enlai to visit 10 countries.

This tour of Africa gave China and Africa an opportunity to become better acquainted and to set in motion many different forms of cooperation, which became exemplary in many respects.

It is worth revisiting this shared history in order to gain a better understanding of where we are coming from and a clearer perception of the future. The foundations for this future were laid by three great men, three great friends of Africa, Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping and Jiang Zemin. You, Mr. President, dear friend, are continuing adeptly to strengthen these foundations in the interests of the peoples of China and Africa.

Mr. President, you have enabled significant strides to be made in Sino-African cooperation.

The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation which brings us together today has been in existence for only six years, but the results achieved over that brief span of time have far-reaching political, economic and sociocultural implications.

The first ministerial conference held here, in Beijing, from 10 to 12 October 2000 focused, among other things, on:

- the promotion of South/South cooperation;
- the improvement of North/South relations;
- participation in international affairs on an equal footing;
- the establishment of a long-term partnership for the benefit of both parties.

We remember that, during that first meeting, the Chinese Government announced its decision to cancel some US$ 10 billion of the debt owed by African countries.

As always, the Chinese authorities kept their word, much to the gratification of the African peoples who were the recipients of this great generosity.

Three years later, on 25 and 26 November 2003, at the second ministerial conference, held in Addis Ababa, the Chinese Government reiterated its wish to further expand Sino-African cooperation and undertook:

– to promote the democratization of international relations through consultations;

– to support the idea of multilateralism advocated by Africa;

– to accept the challenge of globalization by harmonizing positions in multilateral negotiations concerning world trade;

– to increase its assistance to African countries.

We can state with certainty that the third meeting of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation will be as successful as the first two meetings.

The Declaration of the Beijing Summit and the Beijing Action Plan (2007-2009), which have been submitted by the ministerial conference to the heads of State for consideration, are of major importance. These two texts take account of the organization and structure of our multiform relations with a view to enabling us to attain higher levels of cooperation over the next three years.

We welcome the support China intends to give Africa, as stated in these two texts, with respect to:

– the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD);

– the realization of the Millennium Development Goals;

– the resumption of the Doha Round of negotiations at the World Trade Organization.

This is a fitting time and place to tell you that Africa fully appreciates the true worth of China's outstanding efforts to promote peace on our continent. These efforts have, in particular, been deployed through effective and active Chinese participation in a variety of peacekeeping operations in several African countries which have experienced and which are still experiencing serious crises.

We thank you for this support, which we would like to see extended to another of Africa's daily battles, namely the struggle against desertification and drought. China not only has long experience in this sphere, but also and above all it has the technologies and methodologies from which Africa would be happy to benefit.

I am sure that this summit is going to develop and strengthen the strategic partnership between China and Africa, making it broader, more practical and, of course, more fruitful. We have the will and the means to do so.

China offers us a striking example. The spectacular progress recorded by your country, Mr. President, commands admiration. Just yesterday China was a poor country, but today, thanks to suitable policies applied methodically and with determination, it is providing powerful assistance for other developing countries.

I salute China on behalf of Africa.

And I wish our deliberations every success. Long live Sino-African friendship and cooperation.

[Original: English]

Opening statement by H.E. Ato Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, at the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation

Beijing, 4 November 2006

I know it is a source of satisfaction to all of us to be here in Beijing for this historic Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. The Summit is a clear demonstration of the utmost determination of Chinese and African leaders to intensify the relations between China and Africa and to raise the Forum to an even higher level. As the current co-chair of this Forum, I would like, on behalf of Africa, to extend my warmest welcome to all participants and express my heartfelt thanks to the Government of the People's Republic of China for its commendable efforts and excellent arrangements to make this Summit a success.

The Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation that is being held on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the inauguration of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the countries of Africa, is nothing short of a reaffirmation and renewal of the strategic partnership between Africa and China.

It is a reaffirmation of our strategic partnership because our partnership is not new. It is a partnership which was forged as early as the era of the anti-colonial struggle in Africa. China has provided selfless support to Africa in its struggle for independence. The post-independence period too was a period when the partnership was further strengthened. The exercise of true independence and our sovereign rights has for us been something that has to be fought for every day. This is the nature of the world we live in. The commitment of China to the principle of the sovereign equality among nations and non-interference in the affairs of others, has provided Africa the opportunity to forge a partnership that is based on trust and mutual confidence. It is therefore very appropriate that 50 years after we began building our strategic partnership in the fight against colonialism and apartheid and for our right to fully exercise our sovereign rights, we should reaffirm the Sino-Africa strategic partnership.

Today's summit is not merely about reaffirming our partnership but also about renewing it. The end of colonialism and apartheid in Africa has created a

new environment in our continent. Our main challenge now is not fighting colonialism, but fighting poverty and backwardness and achieving economic independence. Our challenge now is to achieve peace and stability and to promote good governance throughout the continent. Africa needs the support of its friends to overcome these challenges. The Sino-Africa strategic partnership too cannot but reflect the changed circumstances in Africa and be geared towards Africa overcoming its current challenges. Our strategic partnership must therefore not only be reaffirmed but also renewed to take into account the changed circumstances in Africa.

The peaceful development of China, the extraordinary success of China in economic development and other fields has also created a fundamentally changed circumstance. China has now more means at its disposal to assist Africa to overcome its current economic challenges and is already having a marked impact on Africa's economic future. Sino-Africa strategic partnership must therefore be renewed to take into account the changed circumstances in China and the consequent changes globally.

It seems to me natural that our renewed strategic partnership must focus on Africa's economic development as poverty and backwardness are at the root of all of Africa's challenges. The peaceful development of China and the dramatic improvement in its economic capacity and global role and the continuing achievements of China in this regard suggests that economic cooperation should be at the core of the renewed Sino-Africa strategic partnership.

In the era of globalization such cooperation must of necessity be based on mutual benefits and on seeking win-win solutions. Africa provides to the growing Chinese economy a reliable field for investment, trade and the utilization of natural resources for mutual benefit. China provides for Africa a source of successful development experience, technology transfer, trade and investment. There is thus a very large area of economic complementarity between Africa and China which makes it possible for us to establish strategic economic partnership based on promoting mutual benefit and win-win solutions.

Historically Africa's economic relations have been unbalanced and have not benefited Africa on an equal basis. This is largely related to colonialism and its aftermath. Africa is now eager to overcome these unequal economic ties and

transform them into mutually beneficial ones. China too has in the past been a victim of these unequal relations. The peaceful development of China thus provides us all the opportunity to establish a new type of economic partnership — one that is based on equality and mutual benefit. That is why our peoples have very high expectations from the renewed Sino-Africa strategic partnership and have celebrated and welcomed China's tremendous progress in the economic and other fields.

Africa needs peace and stability within itself and in the global environment if it is to overcome the challenges it faces. China too needs a stable and tranquil global environment to continue its peaceful development. This constitutes another solid basis for the renewed Sino-Africa strategic partnership and one that supplements our economic partnership.

I am convinced that Africa is fully ready to reaffirm and renew its strategic partnership with China. Our peoples have followed China's achievement with interest and sympathy and are inspired by it. African governments have established friendly ties with China on a bilateral and multilateral basis. Indeed, the fact that we have here today one of the largest gatherings on African leaders in history is a concrete manifestation of the importance of Sino-African strategic partnership to African leaders.

I am also equally convinced that the people and government of the People's Republic of China attach great importance to renewing the strategic partnership with Africa. The support that China has given to Africa since the start of the Forum and even before the Forum was established, are concrete manifestations of that. The draft documents that have been prepared for our consideration and the holding of this magnificent summit are practical proofs of China's commitment to the partnership.

The summit is therefore destined to succeed in its objectives. It is a summit that history will remember as a turning point in the long-standing friendly relations between Africa and China.

In concluding, I would like to reiterate how delighted we have been and what a privilege it has indeed been for us to have had the opportunity to co-chair this important Forum for the past three years. As we welcome the incoming co-chair

with the pledge of our fullest cooperation, we also wish to assure the Chinese side that Ethiopia's commitment to the Forum will continue with even greater resolve and determination.

[Original: Chinese, English and French]

Declaration of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation

We, the Heads of State, Government and delegation of the People's Republic of China and 48 African countries, met in Beijing from 4 to 5 November 2006 for the Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.

We applaud the Summit held on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the inauguration of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the African countries.

For the purpose of promoting "friendship, peace, cooperation and development", we have reviewed the sincere friendship, solidarity and cooperation between China and Africa over the past half century, and had fruitful discussions on the common goals and direction for growing China-Africa cooperation in the new era.

Conscious of the fact that thanks to the concerted efforts of both sides, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation founded in 2000 has become an important platform for collective dialogue and an effective mechanism for pragmatic cooperation between the two sides, we have decided to enhance the role of the Forum and to this end, reaffirmed our commitment to the purposes and objectives set forth in the documents adopted by the Forum.

We hold that the world today is undergoing complex and profound changes, that human society is becoming increasingly interdependent, and that the pursuit of peace, development and cooperation has become the trend of the times and the priority of all countries.

We declare that the development of our friendly relations and cooperation are in accordance with the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, as well as all the international principles that promote multilateralism and democracy in international relations. We urge that diversity of the world should be respected and upheld, that all countries in the world, big or small, rich or poor, strong or weak, should respect each other, treat each other as equals and live in peace and amity with each other, and that different civilizations and modes of development should draw on each other's experience, promote each other and coexist in harmony.

Faced with the growing trend of economic globalization, we call for enhancing South-South cooperation and North-South dialogue and call on the World Trade Organization to resume the Doha Round of negotiations to promote balanced, coordinated and sustainable development of the global economy to enable all countries to share its benefits and realize common development and prosperity.

We call for reform of the United Nations and other multilateral international institutions to make them better meet the need of all members of the international community. Through reform, the United Nations should strengthen its role, give full scope to the function of the UN General Assembly and pay greater attention to the issue of development. Priority should be given to increasing the representation and full participation of African countries in the UN Security Council and other UN agencies.

We hold that the adherence of China, the world's largest developing country, to peaceful development and the commitment of Africa, a continent with the largest number of developing countries, to stability, development and renaissance are in themselves significant contribution to world peace and development.

The African countries are greatly inspired by China's rapid economic development. They extend congratulations to China and wish China even greater achievements in its development endeavors. They reiterate that they adhere to the one China policy and support China's peaceful reunification.

China commends Africa's progress in safeguarding regional peace, promoting regional cooperation and accelerating economic and social development, appreciates the active role played by the African countries, the African Union and other regional and sub-regional organizations in this regard, reaffirms its support for the African countries in their efforts to strengthen themselves through unity and independently resolve African problems, supports the African regional and sub-regional organizations in their efforts to promote economic integration, and supports the African countries in implementing the "New Partnership for Africa's Development" (NEPAD) programs.

We call on the international community to encourage and support Africa's efforts to pursue peace and development and provide greater assistance to African countries in peaceful resolution of conflicts and post-war reconstruction. In particular, we urge the developed countries to increase official development assistance and honor their commitments to opening market and debt relief, and call on the related international

organizations to provide more financial and technical assistance to enhance Africa's capacity in poverty and disaster reduction and prevention and control of desertification, and help Africa realize the UN Millennium Development Goals. Greater attention should be paid to the issue of development facing the least developed countries and the heavily indebted poor countries, as well as the small island and landlocked countries in Africa.

We point out that China and Africa enjoy traditional solidarity and cooperation and have always treated each other with sincerity and shared weal and woe. Having stood the test of time and changing international environment, China-Africa friendship is flourishing and enjoys immense popular support.

We maintain that in the new era, China and Africa have common development goals and converging interests which offer a broad prospect for cooperation. In the new century, China and the African countries should enhance their traditional friendship and expand mutually beneficial cooperation to achieve common development and prosperity.

We hereby solemnly proclaim the establishment of a new type of strategic partnership between China and Africa featuring political equality and mutual trust, economic win-win cooperation and cultural exchanges. For this purpose, we will:

— Increase high-level visits, conduct strategic dialogue, enhance mutual political trust and promote enduring friendship;

— Deepen and broaden mutually beneficial cooperation, encourage and promote two-way trade and investment, explore new modes of cooperation and give top priority to cooperation in agriculture, infrastructure, industry, fishery, IT, public health and personnel training to draw on each other's strengths for the benefit of our peoples;

— Increase exchange of views on governance and development to learn from each other, make common progress and enhance our respective capacity for self-development;

— Increase dialogue between different cultures, promote people-to-people exchanges and interaction, particularly those between the young people, and boost

exchanges and cooperation in such areas as culture, science and technology, education, sports, the environment, tourism and women affairs;

— Enhance international cooperation to jointly address global security threats and non-traditional security challenges, and uphold the common interests of the developing world in the spirit of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and coordination;

— Enhance the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, strengthen collective dialogue and increase coordination and cooperation of the *Action Plan* with NEPAD and the social and economic development plans of African countries; and

— Properly handle issues and challenges that may arise in the course of cooperation through friendly consultation in keeping with China-Africa friendship and the long-term interests of the two sides.

We hold that the establishment of a new type of strategic partnership is both the shared desire and independent choice of China and Africa, serves our common interests, and will help enhance solidarity, mutual support and assistance and unity of the developing countries and contribute to durable peace and harmonious development in the world.

We have, in the spirit of this *Declaration*, formulated and adopted the *Beijing Action Plan of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (2007-2009)*.

We commend the Ministers participating in the Third Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation for their dedicated efforts and outstanding work, applaud the outcome of the High-Level Dialogue between Chinese and African Leaders and Business Representatives, and express our congratulations on the full success of the Summit.

United Nations A/61/581

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 November 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 157
Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Letter dated 14 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the texts of the Doha Declaration and the Joint Statement adopted at the Sixth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, held in Doha from 29 October to 1 November 2006 (see annex).

The International Conferences of New or Restored Democracies started a distinct Movement to promote democratic values, stimulate a new brand of international cooperation in favour of democratization and bring the new focus to the international development agenda. The previous important five International Conferences were held in: Manila (1988); Managua (1994); Bucharest (1997); Cotonou (2000); and Ulaanbaatar (2003).

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/281 of 9 February 2004, the Sixth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies was organized by the Government of Qatar, the host country, in cooperation with the United Nations. Over 100 States Members participated in the Conference, as did parliamentarians and civil society organizations representing 69 countries and 100 organizations, respectively.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

06-61968 (E) 241106

Annex to the letter dated 14 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Doha Declaration

Sixth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies

Doha, 29 October-1 November 2006

Building Capacity for Democracy, Peace and Social Progress

Introduction

We, the ministers and other representatives of Governments around the world gathered at the Sixth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies at Doha, Qatar, from 29 October to 1 November 2006, are determined to adhere to the universal relevance of democratic values, principles and standards, to work together to consolidate and strengthen democratic institutions, and to enhance the linkages between democracy, peace and social progress in the ongoing international dialogue on development,

Preamble and principles

Recognizing that a large number of the States in the world are now participating in the International Conferences of New or Restored Democracies and are working together with a host of parliamentarians, international organizations and a large number of non-governmental organizations active in the field of democracy from around the world,

Recalling, inter alia, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Recalling also the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Millennium Declaration,

Emphasizing that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights without distinctions of any kind,

Renewing our conviction that democracy, sustainable development, peace and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

Committing to advancing human welfare, freedom and progress everywhere, as well as to encouraging tolerance, respect, dialogue, and cooperation among different cultures, civilizations and peoples,

Reaffirming that strict adherence to the principle of non-discrimination, including in respect to persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, is one of the pivotal elements of democracy,

Acknowledging the rich diversity of the world, and that all cultures and civilizations contribute to the enrichment of humankind and the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world in order to promote international peace and security,

Acknowledging further that interfaith dialogue and cooperation plays a vital role in promoting democracy,

Committing also to act in the spirit of universally recognized standards of human rights with the purpose of strengthening dialogue and cooperation between states, peoples and individuals, as well as a culture of peace,

Reaffirming our faith in, and support to, the United Nations and our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the fundamental principles of international law, which are indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world, and reiterate our determination to foster strict respect for them, and in this regard, commending the Secretary-General and the United Nations system for their continuous efforts to consolidate democracy,

Considering the need to develop home-grown democratic reforms to be pursued taking into account the distinctive cultures and traditions of each society while conforming with the spirit and principles of relevant international instruments,

Recognizing the richness and diversity of democratic political systems and models of free and fair electoral processes in the world, based on national and regional particularities and various backgrounds,

Reaffirming the right of peoples to determine methods and to establish institutions regarding free and fair electoral processes and, consequently, that there is no single model of democracy or of democratic institutions and that States should ensure all the necessary mechanisms and means to facilitate full and effective participation in those processes,

Sharing the resolve to jointly cooperate to discourage and resist the threat to democracy posed by the overthrow of constitutionally elected governments,

Reaffirming the respect for sovereignty and the principle of non-interference in domestic affairs as provided in the Charter of the United Nations,

Condemning unequivocally terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Noting with satisfaction the momentum towards democratic governance in various countries of the Middle East, while concerned that continuing inter-State armed conflicts and violence have jeopardized the prospects for a Middle East peace and further democratization,

Reaffirming that the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination is essential to peace, democracy and social justice,

Condemning foreign occupation, all forms of abduction, targeted killings and destruction of civilian infrastructures,

Recognizing that the concept and parameters of democracy encompass economic, social, cultural as well as political dimensions and that an important aspect of development policy is the relationship between economic and social development on the one hand and democracy, human rights and responsive governance on the other,

1. *Reaffirm* that the International Conferences of New or Restored Democracies[a] over the past eighteen years, since 1988, have enhanced the international dialogue on concepts and principles of democracy and strengthened international cooperation among new and restored democracies with a view to consolidating the integration of democracy, peace and development,

2. *Reaffirm also* the numerous recommendations emanating from the International Conferences on New or Restored Democracies, including, inter alia, those that address structural vulnerabilities of democracy, the fundamentals of good governance, the creation of a suitable political culture, the protection of human rights, the relationship between democracy, peace and development, enhancing the rule of law, improving accountability and transparency in democratic structures of government, the establishment of free and independent media, etc.,

3. *Encourage* the promotion of a democratic culture, the building of institutions for democracy and the affirmation of common principles and interests in the pursuit of democratization, among others, which necessitate the development of core skills and capabilities in order to identify and address the challenges confronting new and restored democracies,

4. *Recognize* the necessity of creating an enabling environment which requires the consolidation and strengthening of democratic institutions, supporting the adherence to common democratic values, principles and standards and the development of appropriate policy and legal frameworks,

5. *Note with satisfaction* that to date, as a result of the deliberations since 1988, we have witnessed greater awareness of the issues related to the promotion of democracy, the advance in the promotion of the topic in the context of peace and development, the ever-increasing recognition of the importance of supporting new or restored democracies, and bringing positive changes in the democracy realm,

6. *Stress* that the need for systematic implementation of ICNRD's recommendations requires the establishment of follow-up steps,

7. *Request* the Chair of ICNRD-6 to take the necessary measures to guarantee appropriate implementation and follow up of the recommendations of the ICNRD Conferences,

(a) The Chair will be assisted by an Advisory Board composed of eight members:

(i) Five governmental representatives nominated on the basis of geographical representation in accordance with United Nations practice, taking into consideration that one of the five representatives will be a representative of the previous Chair of the ICNRD,

(ii) One participant from the ICNRD-6 Parliamentary Forum,

[a] The First Conference was held in Manila in 1988, the Second in Managua in 1994, the Third in Bucharest in 1997, the Fourth in Cotonou in 2000, and the Fifth in Ulaanbaatar in 2003.

(iii) One participant from the ICNRD-6 Civil Society Forum,

(iv) One representative from the United Nations,

(b) The Advisory Board will provide assistance to the Chair on the most effective and practical ways and means to follow up on ICNRD recommendations,

(c) The Advisory Board will hold meetings on an annual basis at such time and duration as it determines,

(d) An annual meeting of the ICNRD will be convened during the annual United Nations General Assembly sessions in New York,

(e) A nucleus secretariat will be established to assist the Chair,

(f) The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations in New York will liaise with the Chair of the Conference,

(g) The host country of ICNRD-6 will be responsible for all financial obligations to this effect for a three-year period,

(h) Contributions from international donors are welcome,

8. *Request* the Chair of the ICNRD-6 in close consultation with the Advisory Board to submit a progress report to the ICNRD-7 on the effectiveness of the recently established secretariat,

9. *Stress* the importance of more democratic decision-making at the global level,

10. *Encourage* consultation and increased cooperation between the Community of Democracies and ICNRD to facilitate technical cooperation, including exchange of experiences about specific issues of common interest,

11. *Welcome* the establishment of the United Nations Democracy Fund by the Secretary-General, as well as the support provided to it by Member States and civil society organizations, and invite all relevant actors to make use of this strategic and flexible new instrument to further democracy-building efforts,

12. *Recognize* that peacebuilding constitutes an important dimension of democracy-building and appeals to Member States to contribute to the Peacebuilding Fund established by the United Nations Secretary-General,

Cooperation with the United Nations system

13. *Note with satisfaction* the commendable collaboration between the United Nations and the Movement of the ICNRD with respect to promoting and consolidating new and restored democracies and urge the United Nations system to continue exerting efforts to provide the necessary technical assistance to member countries upon request. In this regard, technical cooperation and substantive support services may be in the form of specialized personnel and expert advice, fellowships, documentation, training, materials and statistical data,

14. *Urge* the host Government of the Conference to transmit instruments adopted by the Conference, including the Declaration to the United Nations General Assembly, under the appropriate agenda item and initiate necessary actions for the continued support of the United Nations,

15. The participants *express* their deep appreciation and commend the people and Government of the State of Qatar, in particular the Emir of the State of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, for the successful convening of the Sixth ICNRD, and for the facilities and hospitality provided to participants in the conference, and commend the able and wise leadership of the Chair of the conference, His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al-Thani, First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Joint Statement

We, the representatives of Governments, parliaments and civil society around the world gathered at this historic Sixth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies at Doha, the State of Qatar, from 29 October to 1 November 2006, which unites, for the first time, in a joint statement the three significant sectors, dedicated to the democratic ideal, in the common effort to promote democratic values, principles and standards and committed to strengthening a democratic culture around the world,

Reaffirm that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of the people through elections to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in decisions affecting all aspects of their lives,

Reaffirm also our convictions and commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and of international law,

Convinced that the promotion of democracy and the creation of an enabling environment in which it can flourish is not only the individual responsibility of governments, parliaments, civil society, or other stakeholders but is also a responsibility which they share,

Pledge our common commitment to the process of further democratization of our societies,

Reaffirm our shared commitment to the pursuit of core democratic principles and values,

Recognizing the need to cooperate and build effective tripartite partnerships among governments, parliaments and civil society in pursuit of the rule of law, human rights, democratic governance and institution-building,

Acknowledge the need for regular and ongoing dialogue among governmental, parliamentary and civil society actors as well as a regular exchange of views and perspectives to promote sustainable development at all levels in recognition of the interrelationships of democracy, human rights and development,

Commit ourselves to strengthening the tripartite partnership within the framework of ICNRD process through the establishment and enhancement of cooperation and consultation among Governments, parliaments and civil society; and, in close cooperation with the United Nations, organize national, regional and global meetings, seminars and conferences on democracy promotion,

Welcome, as an initial important step and in recognition of the need for systematic implementation of ICNRD recommendations, the creation of an Advisory Board and a nucleus secretariat which supports the Chair, as outlined in the Doha Declaration,

Welcome also the decisions of the Parliamentary Forum and the Civil Society Forum to establish a Democracy Advisory Commission (PM-DAC) and an International Steering Committee, respectively.

The participants commend the State of Qatar for the successful convening and final outcomes of the Conference, which is a hallmark of the State of Qatar's wide experience and international posture in world affairs and wish the Chair of

ICNRD-6 every success in fulfilling the important tasks ahead for the next three years. The participants also express their profound appreciation to the people and government of the State of Qatar for the generosity and hospitality provided to the participants of the conference.

United Nations A/61/582

General Assembly

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Sixty-first session
Agenda item 117
Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.19

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Diego **Simancas** (Mexico)

1. At its 23rd meeting, on 17 November 2006, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.19 (A/C.5/61/12). At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions orally introduced the related report of that Committee (subsequently issued as document A/61/587).

2. The statements and comments made in the course of the Fifth Committee's consideration of this question are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/61/SR.23).

3. At the 23rd meeting, on 17 November, the Chairman of the Committee orally proposed a draft decision.

4. At the same meeting, a recorded vote was requested on the draft decision.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision by a recorded vote of 143 to 5, with 2 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia,

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Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Israel, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Canada, Kenya.

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Finland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), South Africa (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Japan (see A/C.5/61/SR.23).

Decision of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee, having considered the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/61/12) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/61/587):

(a) Decides to inform the General Assembly that the adoption of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.19 would not give rise to any additional requirements under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 at the present stage;

(b) Also decides that any additional resources as may be necessary will be reported in the context of the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.